

Full Course Title: The Independent Evaluation Group (IEG) of the World Bank Group: Evolving Disclosure Issues and IEG's Potential Assistance to Civil Society

Course Title for Registration System: Independent Evaluation Group (IEG), World Bank Group

Course Number: SIPAU9000.047

Faculty Advisor: Megha Mukim

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Meeting Date/Times: Fridays 4:10P – 6:00P

Location: IAB 501

Office Hours: By Appointment

Credits: 3

Course Overview:

Brief description of client:

The Independent Evaluation Group (IEG) is an independent unit within the World Bank Group; it reports directly to the World Bank Group's Board of Executive Directors. IEG assesses what works, and what does not; how a client plans to run and maintain a project; and the lasting contribution of the World Bank Group to a country's overall development. The goals of evaluation are to learn from experience, to provide an objective basis for assessing the results of the World Bank Group's work, and to provide accountability in the achievement of its objectives. It also improves the World Bank Group's work by identifying and disseminating the lessons learnt from experience and by framing recommendations drawn from evaluation findings. There are IEG units in the World Bank, IFC and MIGA.

Summary of project:

Can and should the Independent Evaluation Group (IEG of the World Bank Group) help civil society to build capacity and expertise to design evaluation frameworks and process information to conduct their own world-class evaluations?

Background: Many governments are beginning to provide better and more performance data and information to the public in an effort to promote transparency and openness.

- In many instances, large sections of the population may not know the nature of the information available and/or know how to process this information
 - Civil society actors such as NGO's and other special interest groups are trying to adapt to these changes, to process the information and to facilitate widespread use and understanding
 - Civil society need to established interactions and functional relationships with the respective data-issuing government entities and learn how to carry out effective impact evaluations
- The IEG has an existing stock of knowledge and expertise in the field of impact evaluation, and recognized relationships with government agencies

Tasks

- Investigate changing disclosure standards in 3-4 countries that are recognized to be in the process of promoting transparency. Some of the possible candidates include India, Mexico, South Africa,
- Identify and review cases where local civil society actors have analyzed and used the available data in effective ways, to determine the conditions that might determine successful and sustainable in-house capacity for evaluation
- Review IEG's experience and initiatives with evaluation capacity building and understand the academic and practical tools required
- Arrange and conduct interviews if necessary
- Organization of key findings in a report. In particular make recommendations as to (1) How IEG, given its experience, resources and constraints, could help strengthen domestic organizations in the countries selected and (2) Whether it would be advisable for the IEG to train and assist civil society actors
- Presentation of the report findings and recommendations in person to the IEG

Deliverables to client:

January 17th: (week of): Teleconference/Meeting between Client and Team

January 30th: Project Outline and Approach Due to Client for Review

February 6th: Comments back to Team on Outline and Approach

Week of March 20th: Mid-Term briefing to client on project's progress (or date that is convenient for the client)

Week of April 14th: Written draft report or initial findings submitted to Client (or date that is convenient for the client)

Week of April 27th: Client briefing of Project findings (or date that is convenient for the client)

Before April 30th: Final Report and Client briefing due to Client

Week of May 7th: Client returns Client Feedback Form

Special skills/knowledge needed by team members:

- Basic understanding of microeconomics would be useful, although this is not a requirement
- An interest in what works and doesn't in development practices more generally
- Good writing skills and ability to communicate complex information effectively
- Spanish language skills would be useful, although this is not a requirement

Initial meeting(s) with your student team in late November or early December, if applicable:

Date and time still to be determined.

Dates for meetings with client, if already scheduled:

Field component: Students will need to travel to Washington D.C. for the final presentation and may need to make one other trip during the duration of the project

Student selection: [All eligible students may apply for up to five workshops through a special online application process from October 15th until October 31st. Assignment of students will be coordinated by the Office of Academic Affairs, and relevant faculty will be consulted about team membership for their workshop(s).]

Grading (students receive an individual grade):

Grades for the workshop will be based on the following criteria:

Quality of individual written work (10%)

Quality of participation in class, Peer review (20%)

Feedback from the client (20%)

Overall professionalism, including timeliness, ability to work with team, etc. (20%)

Quality of team's final report and briefing (30%)

***Academic Integrity Statement*:**

The School of International & Public Affairs does not tolerate cheating and/or plagiarism in any form. Those students who violate the Code of Academic & Professional Conduct will be subject to the Dean's Disciplinary Procedures. Cut and paste the following link into your browser to view the Code of Academic & Professional Conduct online.

http://sipa.columbia.edu/resources_services/student_affairs/academic_policies/deans_discipline_policy.html

Please familiarize yourself with the proper methods of citation and attribution. The School provides some useful resources online; we strongly encourage you to familiarize yourself with these various styles before conducting your research:

http://sipa.columbia.edu/resources_services/student_affairs/academic_policies/code_of_conduct.html

Violations of the Code of Academic & Professional Conduct should be reported to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs.